Recovery of bill through intimidation

†1233. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has received complaints wherein it has been stated that means like threatening and intimidation are being resorted to by different mobile companies for recovery of bills;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether any directions have been issued in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any provision for punishment has been made in these directions and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) TRAI has received four (4) complaints during the period of April 2007 to July 2007 from consumers of different mobile companies wherein it has been stated that means like threatening and intimidation are being resorted to by recovery agents/representatives of different mobile companies for recovery of bills.

TRAI forwarded the complaints to service providers for necessary action. TRAI has also called for information from service providers about the procedures and practices being followed by them for recovery of outstanding dues.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Wi-Fi and Wi-Max projects

1234. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of broadband connections given in Goa, so far, town and village-wise;

(b) the number of connections proposed to be given in near future;

(c) the number of Wi-Fi connections given so far, town and village-wise;

(d) whether any area is covered under Wi-MAX connection;

(e) if not, the towns/villages proposed to be brought under Wi-MAX connection in near future; and

(f) the details of future Wi-Fi and Wi-MAX projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 16-08-2007,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

7071 broadband connections have been provided by Public Sector Unit in Goa. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) 8,000 broadband connections are planned to be given in 2007-08 by Public Sector Unit.

(c) In Goa, three Wi-Fi hotspots have been created at Peramar Resort, Venguinim Hotel and International Centre.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) It has been planned to provide Broadband Wireless services (Wi-MAX) initially in two blocks, namely Panjim (Chinchwadi Taluka) and Madgaon (Salcet Taluka).

Statement

Details of broadband connections provided by public sector unit in Goa SSA

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Working Connection	Villages/Towns Covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Aldona	59	Aldona, Nachinola
2.	Anjuna	67	Anjuna, Assagao
3.	Aquem	390	Aquem, Curtorim, Dicarpale, Raia
4.	Bambolim	114	Bambolin,Curca, Siridao
5.	Benaulim	87	Benaulim, Adsulim, Cana, Cavelossim, Colva, Orlim, Utorda
6.	Bicholim	47	Bicholim, Sarvona, Maem, Navelim, Piligao, Ona, Mulinguim
7.	Bogmalo	50	Bogmalo, Chicolna, Arossim, Dabolim, Velsao, Issorcim, Pale
8.	Calangute	367	Calangute, Arpora
9.	Canacona	46	Canacona, Nagarcem, Palolem
10.	Candolim	62	Candolim
11.	Chicalim	217	Chicalim, Dabolim, Cuelim
12.	Colva	126	Colva, Semabatim, Seraulim, Gandaulim, Vanelim
13.	Donapaula	370	Panjim Corporation, Ella
14.	Fatorda	248	Fatorda, Raia
15.	Mangoor	63	Mangor, Dabolim

1	2	3	4
16.	Mapusa	385	Mapusa, Canca, Verla, Karaswada
17.	Margao	697	Margao, Cana
18.	Merces	153	Merces, Curca, Ella, Jua, Malar
19.	Miramar	726	Panjim Corporation
20.	Panjim	768	Panjim Corporation
21.	Patto	86	Panjim Corporation
22.	Ponda	414	Ponda, Nirancal
23.	Porvorim	764	Porvorim, Marra, Nagor, Salvodor do Munda, Pilerne, Sangolda
24.	Ribander	118	Ribandar, Bainguinim
25.	Sada	59	Sada
26.	Saligao	114	Saligao, Nagoa, Sangolda, Parra
27.	Sancoale	53	Sancoale, Cortalim, Dabolim
28.	Vasco	305	Vasco
29.	Verna	116	Verna, Nagoa, Seraulim, Sirlim
	TOTAL:	7071	

BSNL Network subscribers

1235. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the low volume subscribers for the BSNL GSM Network in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that BSNL has been pushed to number four in terms of overall subscribers, way behind the private players;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps which are being taken to improve the position in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has generally been registering growth for mobile subscribers comparable to that of private operators in the past. However, there has been decline in growth lately. This has been due to capacity constraints and impediments in equipment procurement efforts for almost six months, as one of the bidders had approached the Hon'ble High Court against the decision of BSNL rejecting his bid. Due to capacity constraints, BSNL's growth has been comparatively lesser. The company presently occupies third position among GSM operators.